



## ALABAMA FIELD OFFICE NEWSLETTER

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#HUDCARESACT

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[HUD.GOV/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus)

### *Message from the Alabama Field Office Director*



I would like to start out this month by welcoming our eighteenth U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Marcia L. Fudge. Secretary Fudge was officially sworn in on the evening of March 10, 2021. Secretary Fudge provided [video remarks](#) after her swearing in ceremony stating, "A good home shapes nearly every part of our lives. It's where we start and end each day. It's where we raise our

families and come together in times of joy. "

Second, I would like to thank the Mayor's, Community Developer's and Public Housing Authorities in Alabama for the hard work and dedication it has taken to get through these last 12 months. COVID-19 made everyone change the way they operated. But through it all, everyone has been working for the common goal of making sure the residents of Alabama were the priority.

Sincerely,  
*Kenneth Free*  
AL Field Office Director

## HUD Awards \$53 Million in Grants to Alabama Communities for Affordable Housing

Last month the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced \$5.5 billion in funding to local programs throughout the country that provide affordable housing, community development and economic opportunity, and support to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Several communities around Alabama have been awarded grants for through the funding.

[Read more](#)

## March is Women's History Month

Join us in honoring Women's History Month, as we celebrate the achievements and contributions of women throughout history. Please take time to visit the links/resources below.

- [History.com](https://www.history.com)
- [Women's History Month](https://www.womenshistorymonth.gov)
- [National Women's History Month Museum](https://www.nationalwomen'shistorymonthmuseum.org)
- [National Archives News](https://www.archives.gov/news)
- [Smithsonian](https://www.smithsonian.gov)



# HUD to Enforce Fair Housing Act to Prohibit Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today announced that it will administer and enforce the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) issued a memorandum stating that HUD interprets the Fair Housing Act to bar discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and directing HUD offices and recipients of HUD funds to enforce the Act accordingly.

[Read more.](#)

## Birmingham Housing Authority District Encouraging More People to Get COVID-19 Vaccines

Leaders at the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District are encouraging those who are eligible to get one of the COVID-19 vaccines, and have yet to get vaccinated, to do so.

Last week, HABD President and CEO David Northern got his first shot of the Pfizer vaccine. He hopes others will find encouragement and reassurance in his willingness to get vaccinated.



[Read more.](#)

## City of Mobile Introduces Micro-Loan Program for Local Businesses Hurt by the Pandemic



One of the byproducts of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the continued distress that local businesses have felt.

The City of Mobile tried to assist by leveraging state and federal dollars to support businesses that have been significantly impacted.

The City of Mobile states that one such group is the disadvantaged construction-related companies that work in the City. In support of these businesses, they have expanded their Micro-Loan Program and began taking new applications. [Read more](#)

# USDA Rural eConnectivity Broadband Program

A final rule for the Rural eConnectivity Program (ReConnect), which provides loans, grants and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas, goes into effect on April 27, the same date comments are due. For more information, contact Laurel Leverrier, RUS, 202-720-9556.



Committed to the future of rural communities.

## Grant Opportunity

**Grant Name:** Build to Scale Program

**Description:** EDA awards grants through the Build to Scale Program for activities designed to develop and support regional innovation initiatives. EDA thereby advances the growth of connected, innovation-centric economies that increase job growth, enable the workforce of tomorrow, enhance global competitiveness, and foster global competitiveness through technology commercialization and entrepreneurship as described in Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (hereafter "Section 27").

**Deadline:** April 29, 2021

Apply

## March is Red Cross Month



Throughout the month of March, we honor people like you who make the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross possible — the individuals across the country who turn compassion into action, helping others in times of crisis. Our Red Cross Month celebration has been an annual tradition since 1943, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first Red Cross Month proclamation.

[Visit their website.](#)

### In the News

- Henry County distributes \$300,000 grant - [WDHN](#)
- Lighting of Historic A.G. Gaston Motel Marks Completion of Phase 1 Restoration - [City of Birmingham](#)
- Looking for a COVID vaccine in Birmingham? Start here - [Bham Now](#)

### Contact Us



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